

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (original): A method for configurably loading a data object comprising a plurality of hierarchically related entities and information specifying the hierarchical relationship of the entities, comprising the steps of:

for each level of the hierarchy, defining a target location for storing entities of that level and a target location for storing inheritance information for entities of that level;

Receiving as input the hierarchically related entities and the information specifying their hierarchical relationship;

For each entity, determining its hierarchical level from the information, and generating inheritance information for that entity; and

Storing the entity and its inheritance information in their respective target locations.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein ones of the entities have attributes, each attribute having a value and a first name, further comprising the steps of:

For hierarchical level, defining a target location for storing attributes associated with each entity of that level, and defining a second name in the target location for each first attribute name;

Receiving as input the hierarchically related entities and their associated attributes;

For each entity having an attribute, mapping the first name of the attribute to the second name of the attribute; and

Storing the attribute in its target location under its second name.

3. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the target locations for entities of each hierarchical level further comprise one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table, and a part.
4. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the target location for inheritance information further comprises one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table and a part.
5. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the target location for an attribute further comprises one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table and a part.
6. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning an identifier to each entity.
7. (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of storing the inheritance information of each entity with the identifier of that entity in its target location.

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8. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the inheritance information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself.
9. (original): The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of assigning an identifier to each entity.
10. (original): The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of storing each attribute of an entity with the identifier of that entity in the attribute target location.
11. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the attribute information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself.
12. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the inheritance information further comprises one or more of a parent entity identifier, a child entity identifier, a sibling identifier, and an auxiliary index class row identifier.
13. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~entity~~data object further comprises an outline defining the order and structure of its entities.
14. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the relationship information further comprises container labels.

15. (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the relationship information further comprises the degree of indentation of an entity in the outline, all entities of a same hierarchical level having a same degree of indentation.

16. (original): A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for configurably loading a data object comprising a plurality of hierarchically related entities and information specifying the hierarchical relationship of the entities, comprising the steps of:

for each level of the hierarchy, defining a target location for storing entities of that level and a target location for storing inheritance information for entities of that level;

Receiving as input the hierarchically related entities and the information specifying their hierarchical relationship;

For each entity, determining its hierarchical level from the information, and generating inheritance information for that entity; and

Storing the entity and its inheritance information in their respective target locations.

17. (original): The method of claim 16, wherein ones of the entities have attributes, each attribute having a value and a first name, further comprising the steps of:

For hierarchical level, defining a target location for storing attributes associated with each entity of that level, and defining a second name in the target location for each first attribute name;

Receiving as input the hierarchically related entities and their associated attributes;

For each entity having an attribute, mapping the first name of the attribute to the second name of the attribute; and

Storing the attribute in its target location under its second name.

18. (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the target locations for entities of each hierarchical level further comprise one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table, and a part.

19. (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the target location for inheritance information further comprises one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table and a part.

20. (original): The method of claim 17, wherein the target location for an attribute further comprises one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table and a part.

21. (original): The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of assigning an identifier to each entity.

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22. (original): The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of storing the inheritance information of each entity with the identifier of that entity in its target location.
23. (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the inheritance information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself.
24. (original): The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of assigning an identifier to each entity.
25. (original): The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of storing each attribute of an entity with the identifier of that entity in the attribute target location.
26. (original): The method of claim 17, wherein the attribute information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself.
27. (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the inheritance information further comprises one or more of a parent entity identifier, a child entity identifier, a sibling identifier, and an auxiliary index class row identifier.
28. (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~entity~~data object further comprises an outline defining the order and structure of its entities.

29. (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the relationship information further comprises container labels.

30. (previously presented): The method of claim 28, wherein the relationship information further comprises the degree of indentation of an entity in the outline, all entities of a same hierarchical level having a same degree of indentation.

31. (original): A system for configurably loading a data object comprising a plurality of hierarchically related entities and information specifying the hierarchical relationship of the entities, comprising:

Means for defining, for entities at each level of the hierarchy, a target location in a data repository for storing entities of that level and a target location for storing inheritance information for entities of that level;

input means for receiving the hierarchically related entities and the information specifying their hierarchical relationship;

Means for determining the hierarchical level of each entity received from the information, and generating inheritance information for that entity; and

Means for storing the entity and its inheritance information in their respective, target locations.

32. (original): The system of claim 31, wherein ones of the entities have attributes, each attribute having a value and a first name, further comprising:

Means for defining, for each hierarchical level, a target location for storing attributes associated with each entity of that level, and means for defining a second name in the target location for each first attribute name;

Input means for receiving the hierarchically related entities and their associated attributes;

Means for mapping the first name of each attribute received for an entity to the second name of the attribute; and

Means for storing the attribute in its target location under its second name.

33. (original): The system of claim 31, wherein the target locations for entities of each hierarchical level further comprise one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table, and a part.

34. (original): The system of claim 31, wherein the target location for inheritance information further comprises one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table and a part.

35. (original): The system of claim 32, wherein the target location for an attribute further comprises one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table and a part.



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36. (original): The system of claim 31, further comprising means for assigning an identifier to each entity.

37. (original): The system of claim 36, further comprising means for storing the inheritance information of each entity with the identifier of that entity in its target location.

38. (original): The system of claim 31, wherein the inheritance information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself.

39. (original): The system of claim 32, further comprising means for assigning an identifier to each entity.

40. (original): The system of claim 39, further comprising means for storing each attribute of an entity with the identifier of that entity in the attribute target location.

41. (original): The system of claim 32, wherein the attribute information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself.

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42. (original): The system of claim 31, wherein the inheritance information further comprises one or more of a parent entity identifier, a child entity identifier, a sibling identifier, and an auxiliary index class row identifier.

43. (currently amended): The system of claim 31, wherein the ~~entity~~data object further comprises an outline defining the order and structure of its entities.

44. (original): The system of claim 31, wherein the relationship information further comprises container labels.

45. (original): The system of claim 43, wherein the relationship information further comprises the degree of indentation of an entity in the outline, all entities of a same hierarchical level having a same degree of indentation.